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APPLICANT(S): LAM et al.

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TITLE: AN OPTICAL COUPLING MOUNT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 774-010704-US(PAR)

Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified, enclosed patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as rewritten below:

3. An optical bench according to claim 1, in which the spot size converter comprises a pair of waveguides, at least one of which is dimensioned so as to cause light preferentially to couple from one waveguide to the other as light propagates along the length of the waveguide.

4. An optical bench according to claim 1, in which the spot size converter comprises an upper waveguide having a reducing lateral taper along at least part of its length, vertically spaced a distance above a

non-tapering lower waveguide.

6. An optical bench according to claim 1, in which the optical alignment means is adapted to receive the optical device.

7. An optical bench according to claim 1, in which the optical alignment means is keyed for engagement with the optical device.

8. An optical bench according to claim 1, in which the optical alignment means comprises at least one trench in the optical bench within which the optical device is to be located and one or more alignment grooves or ridges that cooperate with corresponding alignment ridges or grooves, respectively, formed on the optical device.

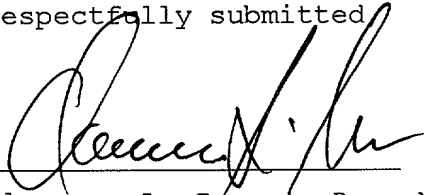
9. An optical bench according to claim 1, further comprising an integral V-groove dimensioned to allow for the location of an optical fibre adjacent a facet of the spot size converter.

10. An optical assembly comprising an optical bench according to claim 1, in combination with an optical device located on the optical bench, and an optical fibre, each of the optical device and the optical fibre being aligned with the spot size converter to provide coupling of light between the optical device and the optical fibre.

REMARKS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (as amended on 11/7/2000) the rewritten claim(s) above are shown on separate page(s) marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of that section.

Respectfully submitted



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Application entitled: AN OPTICAL COUPLING MOUNT

MARKED UP CLAIM(S)

3. An optical bench according to claim 1 ~~or claim~~ 2, in which the spot size converter comprises a pair of waveguides, at least one of which is dimensioned so as to cause light preferentially to couple from one waveguide to the other as light propagates along the length of the waveguide.

4. An optical bench according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the spot size converter comprises an upper waveguide having a reducing lateral taper along at least part of its length, vertically spaced a distance above a non-tapering lower waveguide.

6. An optical bench according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the optical alignment means is adapted to receive the optical device.

7. An optical bench according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the optical alignment means is keyed for engagement with the optical device.

8. An optical bench according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the optical alignment means comprises at least one trench in the optical bench within which the optical device is to be located and one or more alignment grooves or ridges that cooperate with corresponding alignment ridges or grooves, respectively, formed on the optical device.

9. An optical bench according to ~~any preceding~~ Claim 1, further comprising an integral V-groove dimensioned to allow for the location of an optical fibre adjacent a facet of the spot size converter.

10. An optical assembly comprising an optical bench according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, in combination with an optical device located on the optical bench, and an optical fibre, each of the optical device and the optical fibre being aligned with the spot size converter to provide coupling of light between the optical device and the optical fibre.